

25<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum  
“Greening the economy and building partnerships for security in the OSCE region”

Prague, 06-08 September

Session V: Promoting Connectivity and Building Trust and Business Partnerships in the OSCE Area

Statement  
Armenia

Mr. Moderator,

We thank distinguished speakers for their thoughtful remarks.

We appreciate that the agenda of the Forum includes the topic of connectivity and building trust and business partnerships in the OSCE Area. Last year in Hamburg we adopted an important decision, where the concept of connectivity built upon the principles of our economic co-operation, including among others non-discriminatory partnership, full respect for the interests of all OSCE participating States, as well as minimizing negative impact of actions in the economic field on other participating States. The decision referred also to the OSCE principles, norms and commitments related to the economic and environmental co-operation, thus reaffirming the commitment of refraining from any act of economic coercion. Therefore, we have created a solid basis for practical work in promoting connectivity on the ground, including in conflict areas as an important confidence building measure.

There are many challenges in the OSCE area to be addressed, among others the problem of closed borders, isolation of people residing in conflict areas and development of regional projects aimed at consolidating of dividing lines. It may sound paradoxical, but not always creation of regional transport corridors promotes connectivity. If the philosophy behind the regional transport project is economic blockade and isolation of an OSCE participating State, realization of such a project will result in reducing of regional security. Classical examples of such projects can be found in our region, namely the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway.

We believe that connectivity and building partnerships through trade and transport across dividing lines is essential to bridge peoples and participating States, promote confidence and trust and eventually pave the way to resolve long-standing security issues in the OSCE area. Alternative to that is bringing our political problems to economic sphere and economic warfare.

Thank you.